

# ENERGY NEWS AND NOTES

Facts & Tips from the U.S. Department of Energy

## Energy-Saving Tips For The Home

(NAPS)—Keeping your cool in the kitchen could save you some cash. A typical kitchen ventilation fan can pull out a houseful of cooled air in one hour. That can cause energy bills to rise. Try these energy- and money-saving tips from the Department of Energy (DOE):

### Save Every Day

- Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents.
- Use a microwave oven instead of a conventional oven.
- Use a power strip to control your electricity use. A large number of electrical products—from air conditioners to VCRs—can't be switched off completely without being unplugged. These products draw power 24 hours a day. Plugging them into a power strip to shut them off will save you money.
- Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater to 115° and take showers instead of baths.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and laundry.

### Landscape For Efficiency

- The shelter from three trees, properly planted around a house can cut annual heating/cooling costs up to \$250.
- Grown on trellises, vines and ivy can shade windows or the whole side of a house. Trees or shrubs can shade air-conditioning units.

### AC, Appliances And Lighting

- Open windows and use fans instead of air conditioning. Use a fan to maximize and spread the cooled air from air conditioner units.
- Use a programmable thermostat with the AC to adjust the unit at night or when no one is home.
- Keep lamps and TVs away from the thermostat. The appliances' heat could cause the air conditioner to run longer.
- Replace five most frequently used lights with Energy Star bulbs



**A quick energy checklist could save you money.**

and fixtures and save \$60 a year.

According to the President's National Energy Policy, typical homeowners can save an estimated 30 percent (about \$400) a year on their home energy bill by using Energy Star products.

### Shade The Windows

- Install white shades, drapes or blinds to reflect heat. Close curtains on southwest-facing windows during the day. Sunny windows can make an air conditioner work three times harder.
- Replacing single- and double-paned windows with Energy Star qualified windows can save a significant amount of money on your energy bill over time.

### Weatherize

- Caulking and weather stripping will help keep indoor air cool. If you see holes or separated joints in ducts, hire a professional to repair them.
- Add insulation around AC ducts in attics and crawl spaces. Also be sure the fireplace damper is securely closed.
- Consider investing in insulation for the whole house.

For over 100 energy-saving tips, visit the [Energysavers.gov](http://energysavers.gov) Web site or call 1-877-337-3463. For more information about energy efficiency and renewable energy, visit [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov).

### Home Ideas

According to the Department of Energy, three trees, properly placed around a house, can save a homeowner between \$100 and \$250 annually in cooling and heating costs. Something as simple as using white blinds on windows can help cut costs as well. For a free energy-saving booklet, visit [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov).